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THE EXCHANGES SAY

Capital Removal is Entirely
Too Expensive

AND THEY DON'T WANT IT.

Know Where the Expense Will Begin,
But Not Where it Will End.

In our issue of August 4, under the impression that the removal of the Capital from Tallahassee was a necessity, and simply depended on the choice of place, we naturally suggested Jacksonville as the next best place in case of removal.

But after a more thorough understanding of the matter and finding that the retaining of the Capital at its present site is quite as prominent in the issue as its removal to any other part of the State, we are compelled, from motives of political economy, to change views on the subject; as it would be a sinful waste of the people's money to tax them \$40,000 a year to meet the interest and provide for a sinking fund, which would be prolonged for a number of years. If a few extra committee rooms are needed when the Legislature is in session, once in two years, they can be easily obtained at a moderate rate.

The Capitol at Tallahassee is built after the same model as the Capitol at Washington, and if necessary to add two wings thereto the work could be done for about \$200,000. The voting for its removal would be controlled entirely by Democrats. No matter how much interested, financially or otherwise, Republicans would have no choice—in fact, the whole affair has turned to be a three-cornered fight between the politicians of Jacksonville, Ocala and Gainesville, neither of which cities are able to foot the bill and the Constitution of the State forbids the issuing of bonds to cover the expenses, as shown by section 6 of article 9, which reads:

"The Legislature shall have power to provide for the issue of State bonds only for the purpose of repelling invasion or suppressing insurrection, or for the purpose of redeeming or refunding bonds already issued, at a lower rate of interest."

The people are unable now to meet the burden of taxation as shown by the published lists of delinquent tax-payers; and beside all this, the Capital of any State should always be apart from its great commercial centre, in a quiet city where the chosen heads would find ease and freedom from the rush and excitement of a metropolitan city, to calmly deliberate on matters touching State affairs. For such purpose Tallahassee fills the bill; compulsory visitors—legislators, lawyers, politicians—are paid for their time, mileage and services and voluntary visitors can not but expect to face the music for themselves.

We can see no benefit, either immediate or prospective, to accrue to the people of Florida by the proposed removal, and would therefore—as it is always best to "leave well enough alone"—suggest that the Capital be retained at Tallahassee, so that neither of the aspiring cities may be offended nor additional weight be placed on the already burdened people.—Key West Advertiser.

Capital Removal

We copy from the TALLAHASSEEAN a piece on the removal of the Capital. We have heard members of the June Convention speak of the fact that there was practically no chance to discuss this question of platform in the convention. The platform had to be voted on before nominations were made. There were four candidates in the field for Governor. The friends of these were all anxious to get the vote of Duval and the adjoining counties. Duval, of which Jacksonville is the county seat, had 22 votes of her own, while the five contiguous counties raised the number to 45. No candidate could disregard this strength. To vote against submitting the question of removal to the people, meant the defeat of the candidate whose friends resisted this question; for without these votes no candidate could receive the nomination.

It was, therefore, practically a forced acquiescence in this section of the platform, or the almost certain defeat of all candidates whose friends were opposed to it. This is one of the facts presented and argued by the piece we copy. It should be carefully read and considered by every man in the State. It answers

one of the questions raised by this paper some weeks ago, viz: "Who wants the Capital removed?" It was not the convention as a whole; it is not the people.—Bartow Courier Informant.

Changing the Capital Site.

The most vital question now before the people of Florida for discussion is that of Capital removal. Already there is noticeable a tendency to decide this question without giving the matter due thought and consideration. We have read the arguments of Jacksonville and St. Augustine on removal, and that of Tallahassee against. It is needless to say that there are good points in all three of them, but the more the subject is studied from all points the harder it is to decide the question.

In brief it is about like this: Do the tax-payers of Florida want to change their Capital site to the extent of going into debt say a million dollars, pay interest on bonds to the extent of, perhaps, another million dollars?

A great many who would favor the removal of the Capital to a more central location would object seriously to saddling a debt of this size upon the State; but perhaps they might be inclined to vote for a change of site whenever such an offer as St. Augustine is made to offset some of the expense. The Ancient City offers a site and \$250,000, more than double the combined offers of all other cities which are candidates. The offer of St. Augustine is magnanimous, as her cash donation would cover 25 per cent. of the cost of a creditable Capitol building.

But on this donation business we find that the State Constitution does not permit a city or county to issue bonds for such a purpose. How, then, can a candidate for Capital removal offer such a sum and guarantee its payment (provided it secures the site) unless the money is either subscribed, or a special amendment to the Constitution is made to allow such city or county to bond itself for this purpose?

If the latter course is necessary such amendment would be voted on by the people at the same time they voted for the amendment to remove the Capital, and, under a decision of the Supreme Court, both would, if adopted, become effective the same day, hence the location of the Capital would be decided, before the question of bonds or no bonds could be submitted to the people of such county or city.

Another election in that county or city would have to be held to decide upon the issue of bonds or not, and it is reasonable to suppose that after the location of the Capital has been decided in favor of such city, that the people of the county or city would vote to bond themselves to aid in putting up a Capital building which would belong to the whole State, and which they would naturally conclude should be paid for by all the people? It is quite probable they would not.—Titusville Star.

Ambitious Jacksonville.

And Jacksonville wants to be the Capital of the State! Modestly desires the people to tax themselves to the tune of one million dollars to build her a State House and several hundred thousand dollars besides for other adjuncts, contingencies, etc. Verily Jacksonville is a modest maiden, coy, shy, piquant and ambitious. And yet Jacksonville has a bonded and judgment debt of \$1,270,000.00, besides a floating debt, the amount of which cannot be obtained. Her city tax is 15-2-10 mills, more than three times the entire State tax for all purposes, including the State school tax, pension tax, and board of health tax. In addition to this, Duval county has a bonded debt of \$300,000.00 which is also a lien on the property of the citizens of Jacksonville.—Ex.

With such influences prevailing at the Capital, how long before the State would be in the same happy condition? Such management of their own affairs is not very encouraging, or should not be, to the citizens of the State, to make such an extravagant and reckless city the State Capital. Beware of Jacksonville! And beware of her advocates.—Holmes County Advertiser.

As Unnecessary as Unjust.

The boiling political issue in this State is that of Capital removal. The New Era is for Tallahassee, not only because it is a sister town with whose citizens our own have always associated pleasantly, but because, in addition, we consider the present Capital sufficient for all the needs of the State, and do not deem it the

part of wisdom to unnecessarily tax an already overtaxed people to build a new Capitol anywhere. To remove the present site of the Capitol would entail an enormous taxable burden upon the people of Florida. Such a step we consider as unnecessary as it is unjust, and for that reason we shall oppose it.—Quincy New Era.

TALLAHASSEE.

What the Tallahassee Capital League Says.
Editor Times-Union and Citizen:

In reply to the paper signed by the Jacksonville Capital Association in your issue of August 29, we beg space to say: The Capital League of Tallahassee adheres to its statements in regard to the erection of a new Capitol, that, "if \$1,000,000 of bonds are issued for such purpose, the interest that will have to be paid on them will amount to an additional \$1,000,000 before the bonds are paid, making a grand total of \$2,000,000, which will have to be collected from the tax-payers in order to pay for the new Capitol building," and that "a levy of \$40,000 per annum will have to be collected to meet the annual interest on the bonds, an additional levy of \$40,000 per annum will have to be collected as a sinking fund for the payment of the bonds at their maturity." The fact that the Jacksonville Capital Association attempts to dismiss these statements by simply saying that they are "absurd," is evidence that said association is not prepared to meet this issue squarely. While the Jacksonville pamphlet now claims that "a very nice Capitol building" can be erected for \$200,000, it says "the amount of money to be spent in the erection of a Capitol building is a matter which will have to be decided by the Legislature after the location is determined." In the signed article from the Jacksonville association on August 1, 1900, it is admitted that to "have a grand Capital, Governor's Mansion and handsome grounds and appurtenances of every kind" would cost "\$1,200,000." All agree that if a new Capitol is to be erected it should be a credit to the State and ample for the State's business for the next hundred years. The present building is infinitely better than the "very nice Capital building" which may or may not be constructed for \$200,000. The present property is worth at least a quarter of a million dollars.

The statement that "valuable books of the judicial library are stacked in nooks and corners all over the building, subject to the ravages of vermin and liable to theft at any time," is absolutely untrue in each and every particular. The librarian, who has charge of the books, and is under bond for their safe-keeping, has furnished the following certificate:

"I certify that all the books of the judicial library, or Supreme Court library, of the State of Florida, are under my charge and control, subject to direction of the Justices of the Supreme Court, as provided by law; that all such books are kept in the offices occupied by the Justices of the Court; that all of the most valuable books of the Supreme Court Library are kept in the Supreme Court Room in book-cases, with glass fronts, known as the Wernicke system of book-cases, being practically air tight, and is the latest and best book-case known; such cases are always kept closed, except when books are being taken out or returned to their places; that all of the books of the Supreme Court Library not kept in the Wernicke book-cases are kept on shelves in the rooms contiguous to the Supreme Court Room, occupied by the Justices as offices; that there are no books of the judicial library, or Supreme Court Library, stacked in nooks and corners in any part of the Capitol building, and none of such books are subject to the ravages of vermin, and are not liable to theft at any time. The outer door of the Supreme Court Room is always kept locked, unless one or more of the attaches are on duty in the Supreme Court Room. B. B. WILSON, Clerk Supreme Court, State of Florida, and ex-Officio Librarian."

To the inquiry: "Why is it found necessary to do constant work upon its foundation?" we will state that not one cent has ever been spent, or required to be spent, on the foundation of the Capitol building since it was built, and any person who examines the building will see that not one cent will probably be required for that purpose in the next one hundred years. The foundation of the outer walls is of solid masonry, four feet

thick at its base, with solid brick and stone walls two feet thick extending therefrom to the roof of the building; the foundation of all of the inner division walls is three feet thick at the base, with solid brick walls thereon sixteen inches thick, surrounding every office in the building, as originally constructed.

The foundation of the State Capitol rests upon the solid red clay provided by "Mother Earth," and is as durable as the "everlasting hills." We can say, without fear of successful contradiction, that there is no building in the world that rests on a more secure foundation, nor one that will remain secure for a longer period of time. The suggestion that "work" has been, or ever will be, required to be done on the "foundation" of the Capitol building, is too absurd to be seriously considered, and simply displays lack of information.

The laboratory of the State Chemist is, of course, a separate building, as it would be utterly impossible to occupy the Capitol, if the laboratory was in the main building. The analyzing of fertilizers and other chemical work produces disagreeable odors and acid fumes, which would permeate the whole building. If the State had a Capitol costing twenty million dollars it would still be necessary to have a separate laboratory for chemical work. The laboratory of the State Chemist is an ornamental brick building, with two rooms, and is in every way satisfactory.

Every one of the State officials is required by law to make a report to the Governor, and all such reports are transmitted by the Governor to the State Legislature. A careful examination of all such reports for the past twenty years will disclose the fact that no complaint has ever been made that the space allotted to each official is not sufficient; nor is there any statement that the work of any department has been retarded in the slightest degree on account of inadequate accommodations. Is it reasonable to suppose that complaint would not have been made if the business of the State had suffered for want of office room? Does not the absence of any complaint show that there was no necessity for it? The fact is that the business of the State has been, and can be, satisfactorily conducted in the present State Capital without any addition there to.

The floor of the Senate Chamber rests on heavy, all-heart sleepers, extending from one brick wall to the other, and the sleepers are let into the brick walls on each side sufficiently to have proved an absolute protection against any possible danger for the past fifty years; and said sleepers are all perfectly sound at the present day. The ceiling of the Supreme Court room, which is just below the floor of the Senate Chamber, has not been injured by the so-called "unstable" floor during the long period named, and both are the highest testimonials to the honesty, integrity and skill of the builders. The Senate Chamber has been filled with visitors several times during every session of the Legislature within the past few years to such an extent as to occupy all the space, even for standing room, and as the plaster in the ceiling below the floor was not injured, it should be evident that the floor in the Senate Chamber is not "unstable." The solid brick and stone walls entirely surrounding the Senate Chamber have not sprung in the slightest degree, and there is no possible danger, either present or remote, of any such occurrence.

The Railroad Commission had its office in the Capitol building for nearly two years, but now occupies apartments in a quiet place, where their deliberations are undisturbed. There large and commodious offices are across the street from the Capitol, and the entire building and grounds are rented for \$25 per month.

In the Capitol building during every session of the Legislature four rooms have been set apart exclusively for the use of legislative committees, two on the first floor and two on the third floor. The judiciary committees of the Senate and House have always preferred to hold their meetings in the offices of lawyers, because they have access to law books always found there. These offices are nearer to the hotels than the Capitol building, and have been very convenient for meetings of these committees.

The suggestion that the want of more committee rooms for use of the Legislature during a sixty-days session every two years is responsible for the "muddled condition of the legislation" is a reflection upon the intelligent and patriotic citizens of Flor-

ida who have been members of the Legislature. During the entire history of the State all the committee rooms needed by legislators have been furnished to them without cost to the State. Legislative committees have not been noted for hesitating about what they needed or wanted, and in the past they have not wanted more committee rooms than they have found at their disposal; otherwise they would very soon have ordered them to be provided, for there always have been and are now plenty of rooms available for such use.

The increase of accommodation contemplated by the bill introduced at the last session of the Legislature was for the convenience and luxury of the legislators, their needs being already supplied to the satisfaction of members ever since the building has been used. If this were not so, these additional luxuries spoken of would have been ordered by the Legislature long ago.—Tallahassee Capital League in Times-Union of September 2d.

The Alkalest Lyceum Organized.

We are glad to announce that Mr. S. R. Bridges, the traveling representative of the Alkalest Co-operative Lyceum system of Atlanta, has been very successful in organizing a local Lyceum at this place. He has secured the signatures of 105 of our most prominent citizens, and has been promised several more. A meeting of the present members was had at the court house Wednesday, and the Lyceum was formally organized by the election of the following officers: Messrs. Jos. A. Edmondson, and J. B. Whitfield, president and vice-president, and Messrs. J. Earle Perkins and R. H. Mickler, secretary and treasurer. As this Co-operative Lyceum system embraces a course of lectures, high grade concerts and musical attractions, etc., given by the best talent in the country—it gives our community a most excellent opportunity of getting in touch with the literary and musical world, and all interested in such matters should not fail to take advantage of it. Parties wishing to become members can do so by applying to the local secretary.

Old Age.

Old age as it comes in the orderly process of Nature is a beautiful and majestic thing. The very shadow of eclipse which threatens it, makes it the more prized. It stands for experience, knowledge, wisdom and counsel. That is old age as it should be. But old age as it so often is means nothing but a second childhood of mind and body. What makes the difference? Very largely the care of the stomach. In youth and the full strength of manhood it doesn't seem to matter how we treat the stomach. We abuse it, overwork it, injure it. We don't suffer from it much. But when age comes the stomach is worn out. It can't prepare and distribute the needed nourishment to the body, and the body, unnourished, falls into senile decay. Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery is a wonderful medicine for old people whose stomachs are "weak" and whose digestions are "poor." Its invigorating effects are felt by mind as well as body. It takes the sting from old age, and makes old people strong.

Capital League Meeting.

The meeting of the Tallahassee Capital League at the city hall Monday night was well attended and was most interesting to all present. The executive committee went quite fully into the work of the committee—showing how much work had been done and impressing on all the fact that what has been done is only the beginning. They assured the League that with sufficient funds to meet the legitimate and necessary expenses of the work Tallahassee need have no misgivings over the result. But they one and all very strongly urged the citizens of Tallahassee to come forward with the assessment made against them—as money was the thing most needed. We are certain that no citizen of the town need be asked twice to help along a cause in which all, respective of color (be they property owners or not) are so vitally interested.

Millions Given Away.

It is certainly gratifying to the public to know of one concern in the land who are not afraid to be generous to the needy and suffering. The proprietors of Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, Coughs and Colds, have given away over ten million trial bottles of this great medicine; and have the satisfaction of knowing it has absolutely cured thousands of hopeless cases, Asthma, Bronchitis, Hoarseness and all diseases of the Throat, Chest and Lungs are surely cured by it. Call on any druggist, and get a free trial bottle. Regular size 50c. and \$1. Every bottle guaranteed, or price refunded.

DEBT IS SLAVERY.

Why Vote Ourselves Into Financial Bondage.

HARD KNOCKS AT REMOVAL

A Punta Gorda Writes Plainly on This Subject.

Punta Gorda, Florida, Sept. 3.—Editor Tallahasseean—Debt is slavery. Why should Florida run in debt one million of dollars just to please some city gentry, who wear store clothes, smoke twenty-five cent cigars, drink whisky smashes, then smash the good people of Florida with one million dollars of bonds that they will have to pay by hard knocks? All for who? And for what? Only to remove the Capital to Jacksonville, in order that they might pull the Legislature whichever way they pleased.

All for Jacksonville of course! Then Jacksonville and her negroes would be on top, all at the expense of the million dollar bonds, which bonds the people will have to pay. The howling smokers and smashers will never pay a cent of it.

Do such gentry as those who try to move capitals and bum the polls ever have anything to tax? Certainly not.

There is no reason why the Capital should be removed from Tallahassee. The Capitol building is one of the most substantial, beautiful doric buildings in the United States. There is no vulgar ginger cake work about it. It all has the room necessary for legislative work that will be needed for the next fifty years to come.

It will cost a million dollars to move the Capital.

The State will have to issue bonds. It will cost another million to collect the money from the people, and another million to pay the interest on the bonds, and there is sure to be a half million of stealing by the time all of that money is collected and paid over. There is always a steal, from the time the money is collected from the man that holds the plow until it is paid on the bond by the twenty-five cent cigar smoker and whiskey smasher, who are sure to be bosses. By the time the bonds were paid the account would stand thusly:

Bonds	\$1,000,000
Interest	1,000,000
Collecting	1,000,000
For Stealing and Negotiating	500,000
For Prosecuting the Thieves	500,000
Total	\$4,000,000

At the last census Florida had \$93,000,000 of property. Good people would it not be wise to let the Capital stay where it is? And not run in debt over five per cent. of the amount you are all worth? What is the use to put five million dollars of slavery on yourselves and your children?

Would it not be well to go to the polls and smash that removal of the Capital into smithereens?

Yours truly to keep out of debt.
ISAAC H. TRABUE.

Storrs Says it Does.

Editor Tallahasseean:—Friend Cuppage to the contrary notwithstanding the treatment recommended, viz: Burned oil and calomel either has been used successfully here on cattle brought in from the North when attacked with splenic or Texas fever, or else they "just got well anyway." Native cattle, those raised here, whether of scrub or blooded stock, never have Texas fever after they are grown. They are either born immune or have light attacks when young which immunizes them. But be this as it may, in what does and how often does Mr. Cuppage give the remedy he prescribes? This is a subject of vital importance to Florida and every possible publicity should be given to every thing of the kind. — R. W. STORRS, DeFuniak Springs, Fla.

A Correction.

Mr. Jas. D. King, of Stephensville, Taylor county, who as mentioned in these columns last week was arrested and brought to this city charged with selling liquor without a license was immediately released from custody on being brought before commissioner Hodges, and was not placed under bond as was stated at the time. We regret the error that was made and take the first opportunity to make the correction.